CLAIMS

1.   A method for providing Internet content via an interactive television, comprising the acts of:

prompting at least one consumer via the interactive television for input regarding topics of interest;

receiving consumer input regarding topics of interest;

transmitting the consumer input to a server; and

downloading the Internet content regarding topics of interest to the interactive television prior to receiving a consumer request for the Internet content.

2.   A method for providing Internet content via an interactive television, comprising the acts of:

determining at least one topic of interest for at least one consumer; and

notifying the consumer via the interactive television regarding Internet content concerning the topic of interest.

3.   The method of Claim 2, further comprising the act of:

downloading the Internet content to the interactive television.

4.   The method of Claim 3, wherein Internet content regarding the topic of interest is downloaded prior to receiving a request for the Internet content.

5.   The method of Claim 2, wherein the topic of interest is determined by:

prompting the consumer via the interactive television for input regarding topics of interest.

6.   The method of Claim 5, further comprising the acts of:

receiving consumer input regarding topics of interest; and

transmitting the consumer input to a server.

7.   The method of Claim 6, wherein the server is a Web server.

8.   The method of Claim 6, wherein the server is an interactive television server.

9.   The method of Claim 5, further comprising the acts of:

prompting the consumer via the interactive television for input regarding priority of the topics of interest.

10.   The method of Claim 9, further comprising the acts of:

receiving consumer input regarding priority of the topics of interest; and

transmitting the consumer input to a server.

11.   The method of Claim 10, further comprising the act of:

determining priority of Internet content relevant to the topics of interest; and

downloading content relevant to the topic of interest based on the priority.

12.   The method of Claim 2, wherein the topic of interest is determined by:

monitoring consumer responses to interactive television system server inquiries to establish at least one consumer interest pattern.

13.   The method of Claim 12, further comprising the act of:

recording the consumer interest pattern.

14. The method of Claim 13, further comprising the act of:

filtering future server queries at least partially based on the consumer interest pattern.

15. An interactive television system, comprising:

at least one Web server having Internet content stored therein;

at least one interactive television system server; and

at least one interactive television, the interactive television receiving Internet content at least from the Web server, the interactive television system server including a program for automatically downloading content to the interactive television relevant to topics of interest to at least one consumer.

16. The system of Claim 15, wherein the program includes:

logic means for determining at least one topic of interest for at least one consumer; and

logic means for notifying the consumer via the interactive television regarding Internet content concerning the topic of interest.

17. The system of Claim 16, wherein the further program includes:

logic means for downloading the content to the interactive television.

18. The system of Claim 15, wherein the program includes:

logic means for prompting the consumer via the interactive television for input regarding topics of interest.

19. The system of Claim 18, wherein the program further includes:

logic means for receiving consumer input regarding topics of interest; and

logic means for transmitting the consumer input to a server.

20. The system of Claim 19, wherein the program further includes:

logic means for prompting the consumer via the interactive television for input regarding priority of the topics of interest.

21. The system of Claim 20, wherein the program further includes:

logic means for receiving consumer input regarding priority of the topics of interest; and

logic means for transmitting the consumer input to a server.

22. The system of Claim 21, wherein the program further includes:

logic means for determining priority of Internet content relevant to topics of interest; and

logic means for downloading content relevant to the topic of interest based at least on the priority.

23. The system of Claim 15, wherein the program includes:

logic means for monitoring consumer responses to interactive television system server inquiries to establish at least one consumer interest pattern.

24. The system of Claim 23, wherein the program further includes:

logic means for recording the consumer interest pattern.

25. The system of Claim 24, wherein the program further includes:

logic means for filtering future server queries at least partially based on the consumer interest pattern.

26. A method for providing Internet content via an interactive television, comprising the acts of:

determining at least one topic of interest for at least one consumer; and

downloading the Internet content to the interactive television at least partially based on the topic of interest.

27. The method of Claim 26, wherein Internet content regarding the topic of interest is downloaded prior to receiving a request for the Internet content.

28. The method of Claim 26, wherein the topic of interest is determined by:

prompting the consumer via the interactive television for input regarding topics of interest.

29. The method of Claim 28, further comprising the acts of:

receiving consumer input regarding topics of interest; and

transmitting the consumer input to a server.

30. The method of Claim 29, wherein the server is a Web server.

31. The method of Claim 29, wherein the server is an interactive television server.

32. The method of Claim 29, further comprising the acts of:

prompting the consumer via the interactive television for input regarding priority of the topics of interest.

33. The method of Claim 32, further comprising the acts of:

receiving consumer input regarding priority of the topics of interest; and

transmitting the consumer input to a server.

34. The method of Claim 33, further comprising the act of:

downloading content relevant to the topic of interest based on the priority.

35.   The method of Claim 26, wherein the topic of interest is determined by:

monitoring consumer responses to interactive television system server inquiries to establish at least one consumer interest pattern.

36.   The method of Claim 35, further comprising the act of:

recording the consumer interest pattern.

37.   The method of Claim 36, further comprising the act of:

filtering future server queries at least partially based on the consumer interest pattern.